

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE anniversary services in Erskine Church, Toronto, were conducted on Sabbath last by the Rev. H. M. Parsons in the forenoon, and by the Rev. S. J. Hunter in the evening. The attendance on both occasions was very large. It is only a year ago since the congregation took possession of their new church, and it has been a year of unbroken harmony and marked advancement.

THE Rev. P. M. McLeod began his ministry in Central Church, Toronto, on Sabbath last, by preaching at both diets of worship, on Rom. i. 16: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." The attendance, especially in the evening, was large, and the interest manifested of the most encouraging description. Everything connected with this settlement seems to indicate that Mr. McLeod may say with special emphasis, "I being in the way, the Lord led me."

THE Cambray correspondent of the Lindsay "Post" gives the following account of a Sabbath school picnic in that district, and accompanies it with some sensible remarks, of which a good many elsewhere might be all the better of taking a note. "The Sabbath school in connection with the Presbyterian church here held a picnic in Mr. Berkley's grove on Thursday, the 8th inst. There was a nice attendance of children and parents, and an enjoyable afternoon was spent. Some excellent singing was furnished by the choir of the school. We fall in with the action of one of the reverend gentlemen present, and that was to address the children on the following Sabbath. This is a line which we hope others will follow, for the idea of asking the children out for an afternoon's pleasure and then compelling them to listen to speeches, which, no matter how entertaining to the elders, are not so to the children, is a rather fallacious one. So now, Sunday school friends, when you bring out your scholars, dispense with so many speeches, and if you want to have ministers to address the children, have it done in the church, properly announced, and I warrant you the children will turn out as well as they do to a picnic. While we are on this topic would it not be well for our reverend friends to give a 'children's sermon' more frequently than they do?"

FROM an extract from a sermon preached by the pastor of Knox Church, Ottawa, on the 2nd of May last, and published by request of the session, we glean the following facts: Five years ago the membership of the church was 135. During the interval 183 names have been added, or an average of about 36½ per annum. The number removed during the same period has been 70; so that now the membership stands at 248 or a net average gain of 22 per annum. The number of baptisms has been 70. The names on the roll of the Sabbath school have increased from 127 to 170, while the average attendance has risen from 58 to 112. The prayer meeting though increasing does not keep pace with the increase of the membership. The total contributions of the congregation for all purposes, during the past five years, have amounted to \$30,522.26. Of this amount the Ladies' Association raised \$1,243.57. The contributions to the different schemes of the Church have been \$1,733.37. From these figures we learn that the average annual contributions of the congregation for all purposes have amounted to \$6,104.45, and that the average annual amount contributed to the schemes of the Church has been \$346.45. The amount contributed by the Sabbath school during these five years has been \$439.88, or an annual average of nearly \$88. Of this amount \$165 were given to Missions. The total contributions of the congregation, including the Sabbath school, have during the past five years amounted to \$30,962.14, and to the schemes of the Church \$1,898.37. From these figures we learn that the average membership for the five years has been 225, or 90 more than the total membership of 1875; and that the contributions have averaged, per member, for the five years \$137.61, or an annual average, per member, of \$27.52. But as many others besides members in full communion have contributed to the revenue of the Church, the real average per member is not so high as this. While we mention the above as connected with Knox Church, Ottawa, we at the same time beg to guard against the possibility of our being mistaken by adding that in

the paper sent us there is no hint as to the particular Knox Church meant, so that we have had to be guided simply by the fact that the document bears the name of an Ottawa printer.

PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE.—This Presbytery held its regular meeting at Paisley on the 5th and 6th inst. Mr. James A. Anderson, B.A., having passed a creditable examination in the prescribed subjects, and having read the usual trial discourses, was licensed to preach the Gospel. Rev. James T. Paterson having intimated his acceptance of the call extended to him by Hanover and North Normanby, an adjourned meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held at Hanover on the 22nd inst., to hear his trials, and, if sustained, to ordain and induct him into that pastoral charge. Mr. John Ferguson to preach, the Moderator, Mr. Moffat, to preside and to address the people, and Dr. Bell to address the minister. The Presbytery granted a certificate of membership to Mr. Joseph Whytock. —A. G. FORBES, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—This court met on the 20th inst., present nineteen ministers and seven elders. Mr. Lyle submitted a motion regarding evangelistic services, which was considered, and after two slight amendments was adopted; viz.: That the Presbytery recommend the sessions within the bounds to consider the desirableness of holding special evangelistic services during the coming winter; and in event of their deciding to hold such, further recommend that the ministers of our own Church and of other evangelical Churches be asked to conduct these services. The discussion was animated and thorough, and a great degree of unanimity was manifested as to the inexpediency of employing the services of evangelists not duly authorized by some branch of Christ's Church. Mr. T. Scouler underwent his trials and was duly licensed to preach the Gospel. Leave was granted to sell the manse property at Chippawa. An interim session was appointed for Fort Erie. Nelson was separated from Kilbride and united with Burlington under the pastoral care of Mr. Abraham. A petition for organizing a congregation in the school-house on Pearl street, Hamilton, was received, and its prayer granted; and Mr. Lyle with an elder from each congregation and Mr. Black, Session Clerk of Central Church, were appointed to organize the congregation. Mr. Thomas Wilson was received as a student for the preparatory class of Knox College. —JOHN LAING, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF WHITBY.—This Presbytery met in St. Paul's Church, Bowmanville, on the 20th July, Mr. Walter M. Roger, M.A., Moderator. There was little business before the meeting. The Home Mission Committee reported that there was no vacant congregation requiring supply; no aid-receiving congregation, and no mission station, within the bounds of the Presbytery. Messrs. Crozier, Abraham, Roger, and Carmichael were appointed the Committee for the next year. The Commissioners to the General Assembly reported their diligence. Six out of eight had attended, and their travelling expenses were ordered to be paid by the Treasurer. The members of Presbytery reported their action anent the instructions given at last meeting in reference to parental training. The reports were accepted as satisfactory. The Synod of Toronto and Kingston had authorized the Presbytery to take Mr. James Ross on public probationary trials. Mr. Ross passed a very creditable examination on all the subjects prescribed, and was licensed to preach the Gospel. Mr. Crozier gave notice that at next meeting he would move that we hold Presbyterial visitations in our several congregations. It was agreed that at next meeting, which is to be held at Whitby on the third Tuesday in October, the evening sederunt be devoted to a conference on the state of religion, and a small committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements. —A. A. DRUMMOND, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.—This Presbytery met on Tuesday, the 20th inst., in Knox church, Guelph. A good deal of the business transacted was of a routine character, not generally interesting. A committee was appointed to prepare a scheme for missionary meetings. The list of vacancies, etc., within the bounds was revised, the Treasurer reported, etc. A letter was read from Mr. Evan Macaulay, probationer, signifying his acceptance of the call he had received from West Puslinch, after which it was agreed that his induction take place on Tuesday, 3rd August, at two o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. J. K. Smith to preach, Mr. Torrance to preside and address the minister, and

Dr. McKay the people. A long interview was held with Mr. Henry Knox who wished to be employed under the supervision of the Presbytery, after which a resolution was carried encouraging him to continue in the work in which he has been engaged for some time, in meeting with families and urging the promotion of family worship; and with audiences, and pressing on them the things that belong to their peace; and appointing a committee, Dr. Wardrope, Convener, to assist him by their counsel and instruction as circumstances may require. A communication was submitted from the Synod Treasurer, stating that thirty-seven dollars would be required from the Presbytery as their proportion to the Synod Expense Fund. The Clerk was instructed to divide this among the different congregations in the bounds, according to the number of families in each.

PRESBYTERY OF MAITLAND.—This Presbytery met in Kincardine on Tuesday, 13th inst. The roll of the Presbytery was made up. All the ministers were present except Messrs. Grant, Davidson, and McNaughton. There was a fair attendance of elders. Rev. G. Brown was appointed Moderator for the next six months. Mr. C. Rutherford appeared before the Presbytery asking to be certified to the Board of Examiners of the College. A committee was appointed to examine him, consisting of Messrs. McQuarrie and Cameron, ministers, and Bennett, elder. Rev. T. Muir and D. King, elder, were appointed to audit the Treasurer's book. Mr. Dickson, the Treasurer of the Presbytery, gave in his report, which was received and the thanks of the Presbytery given to him. Messrs. Wilkins, McQuarrie, Leask, and Murray, ministers, and Dickson, elder, were appointed to estimate the amount required to carry on the business of the Presbytery during the year. A deputation consisting of Messrs. Sutherland and Cameron were appointed to visit the congregation of Ashfield. Commissioners to the Assembly reported their diligence to the business of that Court and gave a statement of their expense. The Clerk was instructed to write to all the congregations regarding the amount expected from each to meet this expense. Mr. Cameron gave in the Home Mission report which was received and adopted. Messrs. Cameron, Leask, Taylor, and Leitch, ministers, Lockhart and Malcolm, elders, were appointed the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery. Messrs. Ross, McKay, and Hamilton, ministers, Strachan and McLaughlin, elders, were appointed to examine the statistical and financial returns of the Presbytery to the General Assembly and report what each congregation has done, per family and communicant, for the support of Gospel ordinances, the schemes of the Church, and for other purposes. Mr. Cameron was appointed to moderate in a call in Chalmers' Church, Kincardine township. Messrs. Ross, Brown, and Sutherland, ministers, were appointed to consider the whole matter of holding Presbyterial visitations and report to next meeting. —R. LEASK, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.—This Presbytery met in Dr. Proudfoot's church on Tuesday, the 20th inst. The attendance both of ministers and elders was large. The resignation by the Rev. Mr. Henderson of the charge of Komoka was taken up, when after considerable discussion it was agreed by a majority that Mr. Henderson's resignation be not accepted, but that the committee already existing to bring in deliverances on such cases as this be enlarged, and that it be asked to bring in a deliverance upon this and similar cases. The delegates from the congregations of West Williams and North-east Adelaide were then heard with regard to the union of the churches. It was moved by the Clerk, seconded by Mr. Fraser, that the churches be united, the same to take effect on the first Sabbath in August. Some appeals from decisions of sessions, and other matters of no public interest, took up a considerable portion of the time of the Presbytery. The delegates to the Assembly reported what had been done, especially that the division of the Presbytery had been disapproved of by the supreme court. Standing committees were appointed. The office of Mission Convener was separated from that of Presbytery Clerk, and the salaries attached to each fixed. Dr. Proudfoot applied on behalf of the London East congregation, for leave to moderate in a call at the request of the congregation between this and the next meeting of the Presbytery. He also asked the Presbytery to recommend the Home Mission Committee to increase the supplement to \$300 or \$400. He believed that if a settled pastor were once located